



April 2007

# Celebrate Earth Day!



## City Introduces Greener Atlanta Initiative: Businesses, communities join for Earth Day Event



Join Mayor Shirley Franklin as she announces an important new environmental initiative, Greener Atlanta, by participating in the first city-wide Arms Around Atlanta – Earth Day Celebration, sponsored by the City of Atlanta, the BeltLine Partnership and Keep Atlanta Beautiful.

On April 21, from 8 am – Noon, Mayor Franklin invites you to join community and corporate volunteers as we clean up selected rights-of-way in neighborhoods and parks located

on or close to the proposed BeltLine. The City will also host several stream cleanups, electronic waste recycling, a tire roundup and recycling projects around the City.



On April 21 and 22, join us in Grant Park to participate in an Earth Day festival with interactive educational and arts

programming. The festival will feature entertainment, organic and local food markets and much more. Participate in the Stepping Lightly in Atlanta eco-puzzle game and discover your eco-footprint by visiting the many booths of non-profit groups and companies that support a Greener Atlanta.

Mayor Franklin's Greener Atlanta initiatives are designed to create and foster a community dedicated to environmental sustainability through Best-in-Class leadership by the City.



### FOUNDATION Building Affordable Healthy Homes

Many thanks to our major sponsor, The Home Depot Foundation.

It's our city. Do your part and be a part of a Greener Atlanta. [www.atlantaga.gov](http://www.atlantaga.gov) or [www.KeepAtlantaBeautiful.org](http://www.KeepAtlantaBeautiful.org)

## DWM Completes Greenway Acquisition Project

March 31 marked the completion of the Department of Watershed Management's \$25 million Greenway Acquisition Project to acquire and protect properties near local waterways.

Since 2001, the Department has worked with residents, organizations and adjoining municipalities to purchase approximately 1,830 acres of greenways in Atlanta and 14 neighboring counties.

The conservation of these greenways will protect local waterways, animal and plant habitats, and wetlands along Metro Atlanta rivers and streams. The properties acquired through the program will forever be maintained in a natural, undisturbed state, free of development. Visit [www.cleanwateratlanta](http://www.cleanwateratlanta) to learn more about the greenway project and to find a list of acquired properties.

### Important Numbers to Remember

- Customer Service: 404-658-6500
- Customer Service Fax: 404-658-6637
- Customer Service E-mail: [watershedhelp@atlwater.com](mailto:watershedhelp@atlwater.com)
- Water Service Concerns: 404-658-7220
- Sewer Service Concerns: 404-624-0751

City of Atlanta • Department of Watershed Management  
55 Trinity Avenue • Suite 5400 • Atlanta, Georgia 30303





# Understanding the Other Pipe: Atlanta's Stormwater Infrastructure

Over the past three years, the focus of the Department of Watershed Management's Clean Water Atlanta infrastructure overhaul has been on 1) water pipes that bring drinking water to homes and businesses; and 2) sanitary sewer pipes that take wastewater away. However, the other pipe, the stormwater pipe, is another very important part of our infrastructure.

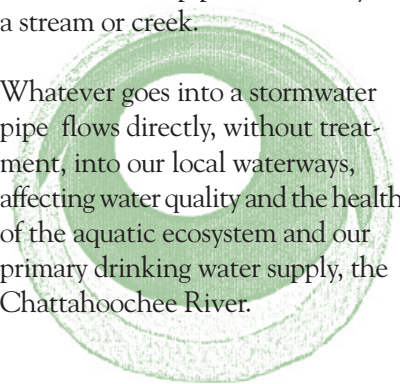
The City's stormwater pipes are responsible for transporting stormwater runoff off City streets. The stormwater system needs to be evaluated for capacity and condition, just like the water and sewer systems.

As Mayor Shirley Franklin committed in her Clean Water Atlanta Five-Point Plan, DWM is dedicated to improving water quality through stormwater management. We in Watershed Management pledge to

ensure that our stormwater infrastructure is improved and maintained.

## Stormwater Infrastructure Facts

- City stormwater drains and pipes remove water from the street.
- In parts of Atlanta where separate stormwater drainage systems are in place, stormwater flows from the street to the nearest storm drain into the stormwater pipe and directly to a stream or creek.
- Whatever goes into a stormwater pipe flows directly, without treatment, into our local waterways, affecting water quality and the health of the aquatic ecosystem and our primary drinking water supply, the Chattahoochee River.



## Convenience Fee for Online Credit Card Transactions

On February 19, City Council passed legislation to assess a \$4.50 convenience fee for online credit card transactions. The ordinance was initiated by the Department of Finance and applies to all City of Atlanta online services. Please be mindful that this fee will be added to your total charge if you pay your water bill online using a credit card.

## Tip of the Month: Help prevent stormwater pollution when working in your garden

As you work in your garden this spring, do your part to help prevent stormwater pollution. Apply lawn chemicals sparingly, according to directions and never before rain. Use non-toxic alternatives to traditional pesticides and fertilizers. Rainwater or water from garden hoses or sprinklers carries pesticides and fertilizers into stormwater pipes, which in some parts of Atlanta flow directly into creeks and streams. Make sure you dispose of grass clippings and other yard trash properly. Improperly placed yard waste can be easily swept into storm drains, causing clogs that can result in flooding.

**Clean Water Is Dirty Work**  
– Project Helpline –  
**404-529-9211**  
[www.atlantawatershed.org](http://www.atlantawatershed.org)



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